GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:243
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
SOIL TESTS
Patel Shri Jivabhai Ambalal;Prasad Shri Hari Kewal

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the soil tests on nonagricultural and agricultural land being conducted by the Government;

(b) whether soil-tests are not being conducted according to the rules due to which the production capacity of land is not being fully utilised;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(d) the details of the performance of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 243 DUE FOR REPLY ON 3RD DECEMBER, 2007

(a) to (c): Soil tests for soil fertility on agricultural land are being carried out by the soil testing laboratories as per standard methodology. Besides, Soil and Land Use Survey of India (SLUSI) conducts detailed soil survey in the priority watershed of various catchments of river valley project, as per standard methodology irrespective of soils occurring under various land use such as agriculture, forest and open scrub.

(d): Under the centrally sponsored scheme (namely, balanced and integrated use of fertilizer) assistance is given for setting up of new laboratories and for strengthening the existing laboratories. At present there are 651 soil testing laboratories in the country with an annual analyzing capacity of about 7 million soil samples. The capacity utilization is about 82%. Under the central sector scheme for Soil and Land Use Survey of India (SLUSI) detailed surveys are conducted in the priority watersheds. The organization has so far covered 13.5 million hectares under detailed soil survey.